CHANNEL STABILIZATION

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 584

CHANNEL STABILIZATION
Channel stabilization is using conservation structures to stabilize the channel of a stream.

PRACTICE INFORMATION
This practice applies to structural work done to control aggradation or degradation in a stream channel that cannot feasibly be controlled by clearing obstructions, establishing vegetation, or installing upstream water control structures.

Stream channels may aggrade or degrade during a given storm. This is natural and does not necessarily indicate the stream should be considered unstable. A channel is considered unstable when changes in the channel bottom are on a long term trend toward aggradation or degradation.

In the design of channel stabilization, the following should be considered as a minimum:

1. The objective of the planned modification to the channel.
2. Temporary and long-term effects on erosion and sedimentation.
3. Effects on wildlife associated with changes that may occur in the water temperature, turbidity, bottom geologic material, etc.
4. Effects on the visual quality of the stream.
5. The overall effects that may occur if the stream volume and/or velocity is changed by the planned structures.

Additional information including design criteria and specification are on file in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.